

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application and under consideration. Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, and 10 are amended herein. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the claims as originally filed, and at page 8, lines 18-29 and page 12, lines 23 and 24 of the specification. Reconsideration is requested based on the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Acknowledgment Of Claim For Foreign Priority:

Applicants request respectfully that their claim for priority to Japanese Patent Application 2001-336041, filed November 1, 2001, be acknowledged in the next communication from the Office.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1, 2, and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,585,928 to Watanabe et al. (hereinafter "Watanabe"). The rejection is traversed to the extent it would apply to the claims as amended. Reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

The fifth clause of claim 1 recites:

A first housing portion for housing all of said cash deposited by said depositing section so as to be withdrawable by a depositing operator.

Watanabe neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "a first housing portion for housing *all* of said cash deposited by said depositing section so as to be withdrawable by a depositing operator," as recited in claim 1 (with emphasis added). In Watanabe, rather, a first storage section 16 stores first-denomination notes Pa, a second storage section 15 stores second-denomination notes Pb, and a third storage section 14 stores third-denomination notes Pc and unsuitable notes for dispensing such as rejected ones. In particular, as described at column 3, lines 13-25:

First, second and third cashboxes 19, 18 and 17 constitute, respectively, a first storage section 16 for storing first-denomination notes Pa (ten-dollar notes, ten-mark notes or five-pound notes), a second storage section 15 for storing second-denomination notes Pb (hundred-dollar notes, hundred-mark notes or twenty-pound notes), and a third storage section 14 for storing third-denomination notes Pc (fifty-dollar notes, fifty mark notes or ten-pound notes) and unsuitable notes for dispensing such as rejected ones.

Since, in Watanabe, a first storage section 16 stores first-denomination notes Pa, a second storage section 15 stores second-denomination notes Pb, and a third storage section 14 stores third-denomination notes Pc and unsuitable notes for dispensing such as rejected ones,

section so as to be withdrawable by a depositing operator," as recited in claim 1.

The ninth clause of claim 1 recites:

A conveyance section for conveying at least a portion of said cash housed in said first housing portion to said second housing portion based only upon receipt of a predetermined conveyance instruction.

Watanabe neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "a conveyance section for conveying at least a portion of said cash housed in said first housing portion to said second housing portion based *only* upon receipt of a predetermined conveyance instruction," as recited in claim 1 (with emphasis added). In Watanabe, rather, notes from various sources reach the third storage section 14, for various reasons. In one instance, the third-denomination notes Pc are fed to the fifth conveyor path 32e, which extends to the third storage section 14. In particular, as described at column 8, line 61-65:

Thereafter, the third-denomination notes Pc are fed to the fifth conveyor path 32e, which extends to the third storage section 14, by the third distributing gate 33c so switched as to close the fourth conveyor path 32d.

In another instance, rejected unfit notes are fed and collected in the third storage section 14 through the fifth conveyor path 32e. In particular, as described at column 12, lines 40-44:

While the notes P are being taken out, the third distributing gate 33c is kept in the right position to close the fourth conveyor path 32d so that the rejected unfit notes are fed and collected in the third storage section 14 through the fifth conveyor path 32e.

The third storage section 14, moreover, which receives the third-denomination notes Pc at depositing, receives the rejected unfit notes at dispensation. In particular, as described at column 12, lines 45, 46, and 47:

Thus, the third storage section 14, which receives only the third-denomination notes Pc at depositing, receives the rejected unfit notes at dispensation.

Finally, even if the switch 44 is set to the second position where circulation is prohibited, newly issued notes, which will be dispensed to customers, are deposited along with the former notes. The judgment section 30 need not discriminate former notes from newly issued notes. In particular, as described at column 14, lines 38-50:

After a note reform, the switch 44 is set as required to a second position where the circulation is prohibited. When the switch 44 is thus set to the second position, the third distributing gate 33c are turned to the right to close the fourth conveyor path 32d when the deposited note is judged as a former note by the judgment section 30, thereby collecting in the third storage section 14 all those deposited notes judged to be former notes by the judgment section 30, if any.

The judgment section 30 need not discriminate former notes from newly issued notes. Namely, all deposited notes may be collected together in the third storage section 14.

Since, in Watanabe, notes from various sources reach the third storage section 14, Watanabe has no "conveyance section for conveying at least a portion of said cash housed in said first housing portion to said second housing portion based only upon receipt of a predetermined conveyance instruction," as recited in claim 1. Claim 1 is submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is earnestly solicited.

Claims 2 and 5-8 depend from claim 1 and add further distinguishing elements. Claims 2 and 5-8 are thus also submitted to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 5-8 is also earnestly solicited.

Claim 9:

The seventh clause of claim 9 recites:

A first housing portion for housing all of said cash deposited by said depositing section so as to be withdrawable by a depositing operator.

Watanabe neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "a first housing portion for housing all of said cash deposited by said depositing section so as to be withdrawable by a depositing operator," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1.

The 11th clause of claim 9 recites:

A conveyance section for conveying at least a portion of said cash housed in said first housing portion to said second housing portion only upon receipt of a predetermined conveyance instruction.

Watanabe neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "a conveyance section for conveying at least a portion of said cash housed in said first housing portion to said second housing portion only upon receipt of a predetermined conveyance instruction," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1. Claim 9 is thus submitted to be allowable, for at least those reasons discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 is earnestly solicited.

Claim 10:

The second clause of claim 10 recites:

Housing an amount of cash after designating a sector defining whether or not it will be possible to perform withdrawal after depositing said cash and depositing

all of said cash in a first housing portion in which said cash is withdrawable by a depositing operator.

Watanabe neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "housing an amount of cash after designating a sector defining whether or not it will be possible to perform withdrawal after depositing said cash and depositing all of said cash in a first housing portion in which said cash is withdrawable by a depositing operator," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1.

The fifth clause of claim 10 recites:

Conveying at least a portion of said cash housed in said first housing portion to a second housing portion in which said cash is not withdrawable by said depositing operator and housing said cash in said second housing portion only upon receipt of a predetermined conveyance instruction.

Watanabe neither teaches, discloses, nor suggests "conveying at least a portion of said cash housed in said first housing portion to a second housing portion in which said cash is not withdrawable by said depositing operator and housing said cash in said second housing portion only upon receipt of a predetermined conveyance instruction," as discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1. Claim 10 is thus submitted to be allowable, for at least those reasons discussed above with respect to the rejection of claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 is earnestly solicited.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that claims 3 and 4 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 3 and 4 have consequently been amended to include substantially the subject matter of former claim 1. Claims 3 and 4 are thus submitted to be allowable.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, in view of the reasons given above, it is submitted that all of claims 1-10 are allowable over the cited references. Allowance of all claims 1-10 and of this entire application is therefore respectfully requested.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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